

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 9, 13 and 14 are amended.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because e.g. they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Egendorf (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0177111 A1) in view of Yanaka (U.S. Patent No. 5,946,689). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, neither Egendorf nor Yanaka, individually or in combination, discloses or suggests linkage information includes links to the original and the updated or revised document or document set based on the history identifier, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 8, 9, 13 and 14.

The Office Action at page 4 acknowledges that Egendorf does not disclose or suggest this feature. Yanaka does not disclose or suggest this feature either. Yanaka instead discloses a system identifier that identifies a database system in which data is updated and an update frequency related to the number of times of updates. Specifically, when data susceptible to detection of update contention is updated, an update serial number is produced for the data.

The update serial number is accumulatively stored in an update serial number history associated with the data each time the data is updated. When the updated data and the update serial number history associated therewith are transferred to a receiving database system, the contents of the update serial number history associated with the received data is compared with the contents of an update serial number history associated with data corresponding to the received data (target data) in a database of the receiving database system, and a contending state of the received data with the target data is determined based on the result of the comparison in the receiving database system. See Abstract of Yanaka. Nowhere does Yanaka disclose or suggest that linkage information is formed that includes links to the original and the updated or revised document or document set based on the history identifier.


Therefore, independent claims 1, 8, 9, 13 and 14 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-5, 7 and 10-12 depend from the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter as well as for the other features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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